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March 7, 2016

NEWS RELEASE

EPFD responds to Condition 2 fire

Firefighters respond to Condition 2 fire at 3200 block of Piedras St.

El Paso, Texas – At approximately 10:54 p.m. on Sunday March 6, the El Paso Fire Department was dispatched to a condition 2 fire at the 3200 block of Piedras St. when passerbys called 9-1-1. Upon arriving on the scene at 10:58 p.m., crews found smoke coming from the second story of a commercial building that has apartments above it. Firefighters began to simultaneously fight the fire and search for residents. The people living in the apartment units had already self-evacuated, so crews continued to fight the fire.

Firefighters were able to bring the fire under control at 11:08 p.m. and contain it to the contents of one of the apartments. Damage is estimated at \$300. The cause of the fire was accidental, caused by a smoker's carelessness. The origin of the fire was a bedroom mattress.

There were no injuries to residents or firefighters. A total of 7 units and 19 personnel from the El Paso Fire Department responded to this incident. Texas Gas assisted in the incident.

The El Paso Fire Department would like to remind the public that smoking materials (i.e. cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc.) are the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States.

- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Use deep, wide ashtrays on a sturdy surface.
- Before you throw out butts and ashes, make sure they are completely out. Dousing in water or sand is the best way to do that.
- Check for cigarette butts that may have fallen out of sight in places where people smoke.
- Never smoke in a home where oxygen is being used.
- To prevent a deadly fire, you have to be alert. Avoid smoking if you are sleepy, have been drinking, or have taken medicine or other drugs.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of children's sight and reach.

For a list of these and other safety tips, the public is encouraged to visit:

<http://www.elpasotexas.gov/fire-department/divisions/fire-prevention>.

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Media Contact: Carlos A. Briano
Fire Public Information Officer
Cell # (915) 820-9712